

world market. Even the Wall Street Journal calls the Kyoto agreement the equivalent of a \$100- to \$200-billion-dollar-a-year tax increase.

At a time when our economy is booming, interest rates are down, and more people are working than ever, it is irresponsible to jeopardize this by entering the United States into this treaty. This treaty is bad for America. It is bad for Americans.

H.R. 2183 CLOSES SOFT MONEY LOOPHOLE

(Mr. BERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, the Thompson report released last week has confirmed what we all know, that the integrity of our political system has been undermined by the influence of soft money. The soft money loophole is the primary culprit for the abuses that Congress has spent millions of dollars to investigate.

Through the soft money loophole, a single donor can give unlimited amounts of money to influence Federal elections. Soft money circumvents nearly a century of campaign finance law. It has effectively deregulated our campaign finance system with disastrous results.

The freshmen wanted to fix the main abuses of the current system. We put differences aside and created a fair, bipartisan campaign finance reform bill, H.R. 2183, the Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act. H.R. 2183 closes the soft money loophole. It gets elected officials out of the business of raising \$1 million special interest contributions. H.R. 2183 is fair. It is bipartisan. The bill has strong bipartisan support from both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, the freshmen bill must be allowed to come to the House floor without any poison pills.

Mr. Speaker, the freshmen deserve a vote. We have worked hard to create a fair and honest bill. Your decision now to allow a clean vote on the freshman bill will prove to the American people that Congress does care about restoring integrity to the political process.

□ 1015

SOYBEAN FUEL CAN REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the hardworking men and women that are in town this week for the American Soybean Association's annual conference. Earlier this week I had the opportunity to speak at the conference and bring them up to date on legislation I have introduced on their behalf.

As many in this Chamber know, after the Gulf War, Congress acted to reduce

our national dependence on foreign oil by enacting the Energy and Policy Act of 1992. This statute requires State and Federal vehicle fleets to use expensive alternative fuels and technologies in order to reduce its oil dependency.

Unfortunately biodiesel, a fuel derived from soybeans, was not included in the list of fuels that fleet managers could use to comply with this Federal mandate, largely because the fuel was still being tested and developed.

My bill, H.R. 2568, the Energy Policy Amendments Act of 1997, which has 55 cosponsors, will allow biodiesel to be used in diesel engines across the Nation to reduce harmful emissions, clean our air, and increase the demand for soybeans, all at a reduced cost when compared to traditional alternative fuel technologies.

Mr. Speaker, biodiesel is just one example of a good clean air policy.

MEDICARE EXPANSION

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am here to announce that the Democratic Caucus stands for the do-something Congress and we are going to lead this Congress to do something for the American people. That is why I am very proud that we have recognized that there are those Americans who do not have health insurance, hardworking Americans, 55 years to under 65 years, who for a long time have worked in their community, worked very hard, but for some reason have fallen upon hard times. Maybe they have lost their job, maybe they are suffering from heart disease, strokes and cancer which falls highly among people from 45 to 54.

This bill that the Democratic Caucus is supporting along with the President of the United States is very fair and reasonable and rational and it makes a lot of good sense. That is, to allow those aged 55 to 65 to buy into insurance, particularly the Medicare insurance. It allows those individuals to pay no more than 125 percent.

Why do we need that? Just last year we passed a portability bill where you could pass your insurance on once you moved to another employer. That does not work. We need to have this bill.

A REPUBLICAN VIEW OF MEDICARE EXPANSION

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, last year 67-year-old Sarah Rutherford of Brunswick, Georgia was very distraught about her health care, because she knew that in April 1995 the Clinton Medicare trustees said Medicare was going to go bankrupt if we did not do anything about it. After many strug-

gles in Congress we finally passed a bipartisan bill that cut down on Medicare fraud, gave seniors more choices, and increased spending on Medicare for people like Ms. Rutherford from \$5,000 to \$7,000. Most importantly it created a bipartisan tax force to look at Medicare not just for the next election but for the next generation, to correct Medicare for the next 5 or 10 years. This bipartisan commission is working and working very hard.

Now in an apparent desperation attempt to get the focus off the White House, the President has come up with a new entitlement on Medicare to say, and listen to this, in his own words, he will be qualified for Medicare in 3 or 4 years. When the President of the United States retires, he will be able to go on Medicare.

I say, "Mr. President, go ahead and retire, but stay away from Ms. Rutherford's Medicare."

A DEMOCRATIC VIEW OF MEDICARE EXPANSION

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, Americans nearing retiring age are one of the most uninsured populations because in fact they have less access to and they are at greater risk of losing employer-based health insurance. There are 30,000 such folks in my State of Connecticut alone. I might add that the group that is particularly at risk are women who are between 62 and 64 years old, lacking health insurance, nearing retirement, not at 65 yet, not eligible yet for Medicare.

This is only going to get worse, Mr. Speaker, as baby boomers near retirement. Democrats do have a proposal to expand that access to health care to Americans between 55 and 64. It would provide the opportunity to buy into the Medicare program, to pay the premium, to pay a cost in order to get the access to that kind of coverage. It does not draw on the Medicare trust fund resources needed to provide care to those who are over 65. This Congress has a responsibility to address this growing problem. Let us have the Republican leadership follow the Democrats.

REJECT THE GLOBAL WARMING TREATY

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, is it fair to let some of our fastest growing competitors like China, Mexico and India have an advantage? That is what the U.N. Climate Treaty will do. The President still vows to sign it. This flawed treaty will force the U.S. to commit to emissions reductions that will put Americans on a strict energy diet, a more than 30 percent cutback in

our energy use, while allowing our international competitors to increase their emissions. The administration says, a U.N.-run pie-in-the-sky trading scheme will somehow soften the pain. It sounds like rationing to me.

What about the jobs that will move to more than 130 countries overseas that are not committed to these emission reductions? That will harm our families, it will destroy our economy, and it will still do nothing for the world's environment. It is not global, it is not fair, and it will not work. I encourage a rejection of this treaty.

KYOTO PROTOCOL

(Ms. DANNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my opposition to the Kyoto Protocol. Economists predict that the emissions levels agreed to in the protocol will have a devastating and disproportionate effect on the entire population of the United States. Further, these legally binding reductions are applicable only to developed nations and do not apply to developing nations such as India and China, two of the worst violators when it comes to greenhouse gas emissions.

Before the administration takes any action that might lead to the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol, Members of Congress must be certain that this action does not harm our citizens. We are elected to represent our constituents, and the dictates of the international committees must not be our dictates. As we all know, many nations do not honor the international agreements they sign, but the United States does. If the United States ratifies a treaty, we abide by the provisions of that treaty. That treaty becomes the law of our land. We would encourage the administration not to sign this protocol.

AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE WHOLE TRUTH

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, once again we are told that the White House is co-operating fully with Judge Starr and other investigators assigned by Attorney General Reno to discover the truth about allegations of wrongdoing. Their idea of cooperating fully is somewhat laughable. Consider recent revelations about how the White House is cooperating fully with the independent counsel.

The White House hired private investigator Terry Lenzner to dig up dirt on Federal investigators. The White House has spread false rumors to reporters including a false allegation about the conduct of a Starr investigator during a 1994 trial. The White House has repeatedly leaked information to the

press and then turned around and blamed Starr's office for leaks.

Mr. Speaker, two questions need to be answered. One, what money paid for the private investigators, tax dollars or private funds? And, two, who got the results of the investigation, the dirt?

Mr. Speaker, I do not know what others think, but I am getting tired of falsehoods. Regardless of what the polls say, the American people deserve better, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

MEDICARE EXPANSION

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, this is in the nature of a public service announcement. If you are a woman in this society who gets your health insurance through your husband and who is younger than your husband, you should be listening to what President Clinton is offering to the American people. He says that if you are going to have no health insurance when your husband gets to 65, you can buy into the Medicare program at cost, no additional cost to the program. I sit on the Medicare Commission. This will not destroy Medicare for anybody else because it is a pay-as-you-go plan. But if you see your future as a place where you are not going to have health insurance, you are like hundreds of thousands of people in this society today between the age of 55 and 65 who have been offered a program by the President. The leadership of the House of Representatives refuses to take that up. They do not care about your health insurance. Pick up the phone and give them a call.

EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

(Mr. DELAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, if the President offers you anything, you better turn and run. What is the President afraid of? Why does he keep hiding from the truth? Last year Bill Clinton threatened to veto the historic balanced budget agreement because it contained a provision establishing a tax-free savings account for education. This year he has maintained his steadfast opposition to this common-sense proposal. Why? Because he is afraid of the Nation's powerful teachers unions.

This proposal will help millions of middle-class families save for the education of their children. It will give parents more power to make the right education choices for their kids. Mr. Speaker, the President should stop hiding from the truth and drop his opposition of tax-free education savings accounts. It is a smart way to improve education in America.

GLOBAL WARMING

(Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the debate we need to have in America is do we have global warming? One study shows since 1900 there is less than a 1 degree change in temperature. Satellite data shows a slight cooling.

Those who are proclaiming we have global warming want us to agree to the Kyoto Treaty that will drastically change our competitiveness and will radically change our economy. Over 130 countries are not part of that agreement. The debate we need to have is do we have global warming. We have not had that important scientific discussion. I asked a climatologist in my district, who is one of the world's most renowned, do we have global warming? He says, there is no evidence of it.

Those who believe in global warming and want us to sign this treaty need to stand up and tell the American people how we have global warming, what the evidence is. Until they provide that evidence, scientific evidence, we need to say no to the U.N. and to Vice President Gore and the Kyoto Treaty.

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

(Mr. RILEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, all crimes, particularly those involving acts of violence, are an assault upon society. But crimes against children, Mr. Speaker, are an attack upon the very soul of our society. Among the worst of these crimes is child pornography. Today Federal law does prohibit individuals from possessing child pornography, but unfortunately the law does not go far enough. In fact, it only prohibits the possession of three or more items that visually depict children in sexually explicit situations.

□ 1030

Mr. Speaker, that is wrong; and it is time we do something about it.

Last month, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) and I introduced House Resolution 3185, the Abolishing Child Pornography Act. This legislation would close the three or more loopholes by making the possession of all child pornography illegal, whether it is two photographs or 200 photographs.

I urge my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to bring this important legislation to the floor so that we can finally do what is right for our children.

LOWER TAXES MEANS MORE FREEDOM FOR AMERICANS

(Mr. ROGAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)